

The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

Business Office.....915 E. Main Street
 South Richmond.....1200 Hill Street
 Petersburg Bureau.....109 N. Broadway Street
 Lynchburg Bureau.....115 Eighth Street

BY MAIL One Six Three One
 Year, Mo. Mo. Mo. Mo.
 Daily with Sunday.....\$4.00 \$3.00 \$1.50 .25
 Daily without Sunday.....4.00 3.00 1.50 .25
 Sunday edition only.....2.00 1.00 .50 .25
 Weekly (Wednesday).....1.00 .50 .25 .15

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg—

One Week
 Daily with Sunday.....15 cents
 Daily without Sunday.....10 cents
 Sunday only.....5 cents

Entered January 27, 1900, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 1911.

THE ROOT AMENDMENT KILLED.

Last night the Senate rejected without a roll call the Root amendment to the wood pulp and print paper schedule of the Canadian reciprocity bill. If the senior Senator from New York were not so resourceful, if he had not more than once in his brilliant and useful career proved his respect for the doctrine that there are more ways of killing a cat than by choking it with butter, we should say that the defeat of his amendment removed the greatest obstacle to the passage of the bill. Which is to say that we always feel a decidedly slight safer when Elihu Root is around if we know to a certainty that he is wholly committed to the right side which is invariably our side in the present case, also the side of the Republican Administration, thanks to the Democrats in the House and Senate.

Last week Mr. Root made a striking speech in the Senate in favor of the reciprocity measure. He did not touch on the wood pulp question, except in the most perfunctory manner, but advocated the adoption of the Canadian treaty, explaining that in making this agreement with Canada, to be effective only after it had been approved by Congress, the President had followed a course within his power, altogether in keeping with the precedents, and in no sense lacking in any of the proprieties. He declared himself "for the agreement, the whole agreement, and nothing but the agreement," and, in spite of the clouds of dust that have been raised by the Insurrectos, it has seemed all along that the President was fairly confident of the passage of the bill. The threats of some of the Democrats to load the bill with tariff amendments with the expectation that Mr. Taft would veto the measure as presented in that shape, thus making an issue for the Presidential campaign, could not be excused to the country, and so we hope that all the Democrats in the Senate will vote for reciprocity as all the Democrats in the House, who are really worth their salt, voted for it when it was considered in that body.

The most significant thing in Senator Root's speech last week was what he said about the protective system in reply to the declaration of the North-western Republicans, that the passage of the reciprocity bill would be followed by a general onslaught on this system. It was then that Mr. Root rose to the dignity of the argument. If the protective system is not for the good of the people, but works solely for the benefit of "the interests," Mr. Root would abandon his belief in protection. If it could be proved to him that it did not work for the general good, but was only helpful to large special interests, he would give up his belief in the beneficence of the protective system. We are glad that the job of convincing Mr. Root against his judgment upon these points has not been assigned to us, for, convinced against his will, Mr. Root would be of the same opinion still. It must be said, however, that his admission in general that the farmers have not got any direct benefit from the duties levied on farm products, and his carefully guarded suggestion that after all it might be possible that the protective system "was not all that had been claimed for it, and that he would support the bill placing the United States in closer commercial touch with Canada, must indeed have been "amazing" to the thick-and-thin advocates of the system.

We have not the least doubt that the passage of the reciprocity bill will be followed by a general onslaught on the protective system, an onslaught that will be made whether the reciprocity bill shall pass or not. Nobody has been deceived by the efforts of the so-called Progressives in the Senate to make it appear that they favor such a revision of the tariff as the Democrats propose to make—their purpose has been only to embarrass the Administration by causing the defeat of the reciprocity bill. We would not trust them in any suggestions they might make on this line, but we place a great deal of confidence in the very frank statement made by Mr. Taft in a speech at Providence, Rhode Island, on the tariff and reciprocity last Friday night that "we must recognize that the time for the Chinese wall is gone. Before an industry receives protection now it must demonstrate the need of that protection, and it must not ask for more protection than it needs."

To be sure, that was not going very far; but it "was going some," in the language of the street, and we are admonished that we must not despise "the day of small things." With Mr. Root a little dubious about the protective system, and Mr. Taft insisting that the Chinese wall of the tariff must go, and the very fair start in this general direction that the reciprocity

treaty with Canada would make, the way is perfectly plain for all Democrats and such Republicans as are soberly minded. The passage of the reciprocity bill will make the cause of tariff reform very much easier.

ROOM IN THE ARMY.

Two hundred more officers are needed in the United States Army. "Political influence" is no longer necessary for a young man to obtain an appointment as Second Lieutenant. On the recommendation of General Wood, Chief of Staff, the Secretary of War has announced that any young man with a complete or partial education, of good moral standing and who can produce letters of reference as to his character and attainments will be designated for the competitive examination required of all applicants. The age limit is from twenty-one to twenty-seven years. Of course, the applicants must be physically sound.

There are 282 vacancies in the Army and the class just graduated from West Point has filled only eighty-two of these places. The other places must be filled. General Wood would like to fill them with the graduates of the Virginia Military Institute, if possible. He said as much when he attended the commencement there last week. There were fifty-two splendid young fellows in this year's class at the V. M. I. Only three of their number have manifested any wish for further military experience at this time, and this is one of the best features of the course of instruction at this institution, as while the instruction is military, it is also highly scientific, and in the largest and best sense, practical, so that although the graduates would be fitted for command in the field in case of necessity, they are equally well fitted for service in the activities of life.

It would be well for the Army if more of the young men educated in the military schools of the South should feel disposed to enter the military service of the country, and it is hoped that there will be a ready response to the present call of the authorities at Washington.

THE PRIMARY IN TEXAS.

"Our experience in Texas," says the Houston Post, "has been that the primary system has invested office-seeking with so much expense that it means bankruptcy to the man who aspires to State office. Formerly, a candidate might feel his way and withdraw if it seemed impossible for him to win. Now he must remain in to the finish and spend his money. It costs one from \$10,000 to \$15,000 to make the race for Governor of Texas." The term of office of the Governor of Texas is two years. The salary he is paid by the State is \$4,000, so that, in round numbers, after filling the office for two years, he is bound to come out at the end of his term, without having paid a cent for his living expenses during this period, \$14,000 short of what it cost him to attain his high position.

"With the advent of the primary system," says our Houston contemporary again, "has come the expenditure of vast sums of money. Candidates for local offices are subjected to such leg-pulling that was never heard of under the old convention system. Public service has not been improved by the primary, the personnel of official life is not better than it would be under the convention system, corruption has not been lessened, nor has it been made more certain that the honest choice of the people will prevail. But the people wanted the primary system, and they have it. It is their government, and they are entitled to have it the way they want it. But it is hard on the candidates, as sure as you are born."

Under the primary system it is practically impossible for a man of small means to be elected to any office when the opposing candidate possesses large campaign funds or represents interests which are willing to pay for the success of those whom they favor for public station. The very purpose for which the primary system was ostensibly established—the equality of the poor man in the affairs of the party—has been defeated by the enormous expense which this system imposes upon those who offer themselves for office.

We agree, however, with our Texas friend that this is the government of the people and that "they are entitled to have it the way they want it," even if that way be not best suited to their requirements. The old convention system was not by any means a perfect system; but, with all its faults, it was better than the primary system, as it resulted generally in the choice of the best men in the State for places of high dignity and responsibility.

THE COAL FIELDS IN ALASKA.

Pinchot is delighted. The Cunningham claims have been disallowed by the Department of the Interior, and he feels that the fight he and his associates have made against these claims was necessary and right. These are the claims that resulted in the dismissal of Pinchot and Glavis from the Government service and that culminated in the retirement of Mr. Ballinger from the Cabinet. The investigations which have now been completed, and which have established, it would seem, the fraudulent character of the Cunningham claims, were instituted several years ago by Mr. Ballinger, and were conducted by Commissioner Fred Dennett, of the Land Office. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, it is assumed that the same result would have been reached about this time had Mr. Ballinger remained his position in the Cabinet, and that the same orders would have been issued as Secretary Fisher has now issued. It is, certainly, that Mr. Fisher

has not had time to do the work that has been done, and done by order of Ballinger before he resigned.

Mr. Pinchot says that "if the fight had not been made, the Cunningham claims would have been patented long ago, and by this time coal monopoly in Alaska would have been an assured fact. The vigorous attempts made during the investigation by counsel for the Interior Department to show that the claims were valid leaves little doubt that they would have been patented had the Administration been allowed to proceed." It is just as well, however, to wait for a word from the Administration before accepting this statement, with all the implications it carries with it; it is enough to know that the Administration has gone into the case fully, and that the claims have been disallowed after the evidence that has been obtained in an orderly way. We are quite willing that Mr. Pinchot should have all the credit to which he is fairly entitled; but we really do not believe that he has done the whole thing, or that the claims would have been allowed by the Interior Department after the investigation Commissioner Dennett has made, acting under the authority and by direction of that Department.

Now that the Cunningham claims have been disallowed, some legislation will be required to assure the development of the Alaskan coal fields, and whether this shall be done under lease from the Government and under Government supervision, or by sale to private individuals, must be determined by Congress. A vast sum of money will be needed to operate the mines, a larger sum, possibly, than any individual would be willing to risk in the business. If the coal fields are not developed they will be as useless to "the people" as they have been to the world since the world was formed.

Secretary Fisher does "not believe the present laws applicable to coal lands in Alaska are wise or practical laws," and he trusts that "those laws will be modified at the next session of Congress, so as to permit the development of the Alaskan coal fields under provisions that will more adequately protect and promote the public interest." He proposes to continue the investigations that have resulted so disastrously to the Cunningham claims, and to weed out all the fraudulent claims he can find. This, we suppose, he will do without the assistance of Mr. Pinchot. There will be, of course, much rejoicing at the result so far obtained, as it will seem to many that the charges of maladministration—it will be recollected that the chief witnesses for the prosecution testified under oath that they had never charged Ballinger with criminal act or intent—preferred against Ballinger have been sustained. We are inclined to take the view that the report which has now been submitted by Commissioner Dennett would have been made had Ballinger remained at the head of the Interior Department.

PAYNTER GIVES IT UP.

It is reported that Thomas H. Paynter has withdrawn from the race for re-election as United States Senator from Kentucky, leaving a clear field, so far as the Democrats are concerned, to Representative Ollie James. This is to be regretted, because Mr. Paynter is an able man than Mr. James, although not so spectacular. Both Paynter and James have been in public life for a long time. The former was a member of the Fifty-first, Fifty-second and Fifty-third Congresses, and retired from the House to accept a place on the Kentucky Court of Appeals, which place he held until August, 1906, when he resigned, having been elected to the United States Senate. His term of service will expire in 1913.

Mr. James is now serving his fifth term as a member of the House of Representatives from the First District of Kentucky. He is very much liked because he is a very pleasant, companionable man, but he has not accomplished very much of a practical sort during his term of service at Washington. He is an out-and-out Bryan man, radical in his tendencies, and, therefore, unsafe in any legislative position. Senator Paynter is said to be a very able man also, and while he has not made much impression upon the country by his active participation in the debates of Congress, he has been much respected for the clearness of his judgment and his disposition to deal with large national questions upon their evident merits and without regard to their partisan relations.

During the present session of Congress the House appears to have been the more conservative of the two bodies, and this may be one of the reasons that has induced Mr. James to try for the more exciting and less responsible work to be found in the upper house.

LUKE LEA'S SACRIFICE.

Mrs. Angelina Napolitano is confined in the Sault Ste. Marie prison in Canada under sentence of death for the murder of her husband. She has four children. Dr. H. S. Tanner, of Los Angeles, who acquired considerable reputation a few years ago by fasting for the period of forty days, has addressed a letter to Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, protesting that her execution will be nothing short of murder—"the foulest blot in the criminal annals of this or any other country"—and offering himself as a substitute for Mrs. Napolitano. Dr. Tanner is eighty-two years of age, and this is good advertising for him, because it was a perfectly safe offer for him to make, as the Governor-General of Canada has no authority whatever to accept any substitute for the crime of which this woman was guilty, and for the commission of which she has been

by the orderly processes of law sentenced to death. Her case is a hard one, and we have no doubt if there is any possible way by which executive clemency can be extended to her it will be found by Earl Grey. Dr. Tanner is probably entirely sincere in his offer, but it is wholly spectacular and in no sense practical.

We have in mind another case of an entirely different sort, which has appealed to the best sentiment of the country—the case of Luke Lea, United States Senator from Tennessee, whose wife was dying last week, and her only hope of recovery was in the transfusion of new blood into her veins. Without a moment's hesitation, and being glad to make the sacrifice, this great big fine young fellow, just at the threshold of what it is hoped will prove a most distinguished public career, said to the attending physician: "Take my blood!" The artery in one of his arms was opened and the life of his wife was saved. That was a splendid exhibition of high courage and noble devotion; the spirit of the example set by the great Master: "Greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friends."

THE HAND OF DESTINY, AGAIN.

A distinguished reformer and "progressive" has expressed the opinion that "none developed into a progressive after having lived as a conservative for sixty years," and this statement has been made the text of a very interesting and instructive editorial article in the Columbia State, in which Editor Gonzales expresses the view that "the considerations of Nature's rule in such affairs may be forced upon the Democrats of the United States before making up their mind as to whom they wish chosen for the standard-bearer of the party in the next presidential campaign when the party, to have sound hope for success, must enter the field and continue there as a virile, progressive party. It may, therefore, have interest to see how the sands of time have run in the lives of those distinguished Americans whom their fellow citizens, in more or less numbers, regard as probable candidates for the Democratic nomination, and to then glance at the age-record of Presidents since the founding of the Republic."

In the one hundred and twenty-two years since Washington became President, there have been five Presidents inaugurated when they were past sixty years of age. John Adams and Andrew Jackson were each sixty-one years old, when he took the oath of office. James Buchanan was sixty-five; Zachary Taylor was sixty-four; William Henry Harrison was sixty-eight. Eight of the twelve Presidents in the last sixty-four years have been between fifty and fifty-six years old when they were inaugurated. Three were between forty-seven and fifty, and Roosevelt was elected President when forty-six years old. In the last sixty-four years no President has been inaugurated who was over fifty-six years of age. Washington was fifty-seven.

Six men have been spoken of for the Democratic nomination for President at the Convention to be held next year. Governor Harmon, of Ohio, will be sixty-six years old next February; Champ Clark, of Missouri, will be sixty-two next March; Governor Marshall, of Indiana, will be fifty-seven next March; Governor Wilson will be fifty-five next December; Mr. Bryan will be fifty-two next March, and former Governor Folk, of Missouri, will be forty-two years old next October. We do not think that Governor Folk has been seriously discussed as an available candidate by anybody except by Senator Reed, of Missouri, and he may, therefore, be eliminated from present consideration.

"If Woodrow Wilson," says Editor Gonzales, "should next year be the choice of the American people for President, his inauguration would occur about sixty-eight days after his fifty-sixth birthday." But Governor Wilson is four years older than Mr. Bryan; Governor Marshall is five years older; Champ Clark is ten years older, and Governor Harmon is fourteen years older. Manifestly, therefore, if the question is to be settled by the actual number of years rather than by fitness or achievement the nomination must go to Mr. Bryan. This, at any rate, would appear to be a reasonable conclusion from the very striking summary of birthdays submitted by our contemporary.

It is coming out about where we thought it would come out ever since the day after the last Presidential election, when, with a prevision that now appears to have been almost inspired, we nominated the great Nebraskan as the leader of the Democratic hosts in next year's great contest for the rescue of the people's government for the benefit of the people.

CAN'T EVEN MAKE BUTTON-HOLES.

Why don't the young things learn how to do something? What are they here for? To wear rats in their hair, to try on hobbie skirts and make themselves conspicuous in public places, to have a good time with their fellows? Pity the fellows after they have been caught and shall be compelled to live all the time with the inanities of existence. Only yesterday, a fashionable dress-maker was complaining about how hard it was to get any of the girls to work button-holes, a very simple thing it would seem, and so she had to employ a lady seventy years of age to do this work, and she does it well, because none of the younger generation appear to

know how to do anything of a practical sort.

Time was when all the clothes of the family were made at home, and some of us have not forgotten "them happy days," even if we do resent the sort of things we had to wear—the seams of the trousers that invariably came around in front of the leg when this necessary article of dress was put on, the bulging of the skirt about where the knees of the limbs ought to have been; and now we are told that the youngsters among the girls do not even know enough of domestic economy to work button-holes. Probably they do not know how to thread a needle or sew on buttons. It is terrible. Whether are we drifting? And what would it profit any of the young men to try to live with things like this? Of course, it will be said that "they will learn," but they ought to know enough at least to know where and how to start.

Think of what you must endure, young man—the biscuits you must eat, the coffee you must drink, the underdone hominy and potatoes and other things you must stow away if you hitch up with the girl who doesn't know how to make a button-hole.

MAKE THE AUTOMOBILES PAY.

Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, has introduced a bill in the United States Senate providing for an interstate tax on automobiles and also an appropriation of \$1,000,000 annually for the benefit of the roads on which the rural mails are carried. His estimate is that one out of every five of the 500,000 automobiles in use in the United States is employed in interstate travel and that the \$1,000,000 he proposes for permanent highway construction can be obtained by taxing each machine engaged in interstate travel \$10 the year. In presenting his case to the Senate, Mr. Simmons claimed that while we have the finest railroads in the world we have the poorest highways, that of the 2,150,000 miles of the highways in this country the Government is using 1,000,000 miles in carrying the mails, and, in the opinion of the North Carolina statesman, the Government is under obligation to the farmers to aid in the maintenance of these roads. He estimates that the proper improvement of the wagon roads would save the farmers from three hundred to four hundred million dollars the year in the cost of transporting their crops, and he would have the automobiles which use these roads so freely pay their share for their improvement.

The proposition will probably be received with a great deal of favor, and while we do not think it is any part of the business of the General Government to engage in the improvement of the highways in the several States of the country, the functions of the Federal Government have been so widely extended under the liberal construction of the so-called "general welfare" clause it will be claimed that the building of good roads is as much a part of the business of the Government as the reclamation of arid lands and the drainage of wet lands. There is practically no limit to which the powers of the Government cannot be extended, although there should be some halting place in the paternal administration of our national affairs.

Brother Thomas Phillips, of London, preached in the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York on Sunday. He has been in the United States about a week, had preached in Philadelphia and Boston, and took occasion to tell his congregation on Sunday that the people in New York and London seem to be so busy that they have little room in their lives for God, and that at the present time the Church is "passing through an eclipse, and lacks the fire and dash of the old days." A little lacking in fire, we should say; but with rather too much dash for sober and effective work.

When you hitch your horse at one of the racks or hitching posts always loosen the check rein. The horse would like it, and it would not hurt you. How would you like to have a bit in your own mouth and have your head checked so high that you couldn't look around without the iron cutting into your flesh?

"A newspaper is for sane people," says the New York World; to which we would add, the newspaper, being for sane people, should be conducted as if that were really its only mission.

"Shall Murphy Re-Elect Taft?" asks the New York World. We do not think he could, but if he should it is only fair to say that Murphy might do a great deal worse.

A mendacity medal founded by the Charlotte Evening Chronicle for the North Carolina Press Association has been on exhibition for several days in one of the jewelry shops of Charlotte. The medal carries ten bars, and, as the Chronicle says, "it will pass from one champion liar to another for eight more years, and the last man who wins it will have a trophy worth talking about." The first winner of the medal is said to have been the Concord Tribune; but from the reputation which our Charlotte contemporaries have earned we had supposed that the medal would stay in that town. It is to be presented to the winner during the current year, and at the meeting of the North Carolina Press Association in Lenoir next week. There must have been some jockeying, or the medal would have remained in Charlotte, either with the Evening Chronicle itself or with its elder brother, the Charlotte Observer.

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Daily Queries and Answers

Hammer or Rifle.
 When a rifle is not in use, should the hammer be let down or left at half-cock?
 Half-cocked is the safest in certain cases of rifles.

Carnegie's Address.
 To settle argument, will you please give the home address of Andrew Carnegie?
 It is not a matter of controversy. But an easily ascertained fact that has been many times printed in the Query Column. The address is 2 East Ninety-first Street, New York.

America's Rivers.
 What are the American rivers more than 500 miles long?
 These are American rivers more than 500 miles long: Mississippi, 3,160; Missouri, 2,100; Arkansas, 1,710; Yukon, 2,000; Grande del Norte, 800; Red, 1,660; Colorado, 1,360; Yellowstone, 1,760; Columbia, 1,400; Ohio, 950; Brazos, 760; Gila, 650; White, 650; Kansas, 600; Rio del Norte, 700; Yazoo, 640.

Chartist Troubles.
 What were the Chartist troubles in England; how were they settled?
 The agitation began about 1838, and lasted ten years. It was a demand, chiefly by working people, for the

DUKE DE LA CHATRE IS A SWISS CITIZEN

BY LA MARQUESE DE FONSECA.

It is needless to state that the name of the Duke de La Chatre has been used so conspicuously in the recent Travelers Club scandal at Berlin, will not be found anywhere in any of the standard works of reference, such as the Almanach de Gotha, etc. The individual in question is in reality a Swiss citizen of the name of Theodore Spreng, the son of a lawyer of Basle, and claims to have received the title of Duc de La Chatre through the testamentary dispositions of the eighth duke of the name, who died in 1815, and to have died about a quarter of a century ago.

Now, although there have been Harons and Counts de La Chatre in the history of France, notably a Duke de La Chatre who was killed at the battle of Marston, in 1215, and who is the author of some very curious memoirs dealing with the minority of Louis XVI., the Duc de La Chatre family is now wholly extinct. The bona fide member was a Count de La Chatre, who was created a duke by Louis XVIII. on the Restoration. He died in 1815, without issue, and, strictly speaking, his honors and name became extinct; for his dukedom, as we have said, was a mere title, which had come to him by birth, without inheritance in the male line direct.

Nephew of his wife, however, assumed the name and the title of Duc de La Chatre, without any warrant or authority, and passed it on to his son, Raoul. The latter, a well-to-do, married a woman of stormy antecedents and peculiar history, who had as her best friend Theodore Spreng, the man who influenced her husband to adopt Spreng's name, and who, by his signature to a will, by which he bequeathed to his friend, Theodore Spreng, the dukedom, had been, in fact, what is what the will shows, although it has been repeatedly alleged that the documents left by Raoul de La Chatre showed signs of manipulation.

On the strength of those documents, however, as we have said, Theodore Spreng, who was born on Nov. 27, 1846, succeeded in obtaining from the cantonal government of Basle a decision dated in 1887, authorizing him to add to his name of Spreng the name of Duc de La Chatre, but not the title of Duc de La Chatre, and even holding that the grand duke of the Duke de La Chatre, who died in 1824 without issue, really adopted him as his heir.

It will be seen from this that Spreng has no possible right or authority for calling himself Duc de La Chatre, and even holding that the grand duke of the Duke de La Chatre, who died in 1824 without issue, really adopted him as his heir.

It is a long and serious question as to whether the grand duke of the Duke de La Chatre, who died in 1824 without issue, really adopted him as his heir, and whether the grand duke of the Duke de La Chatre, who died in 1824 without issue, really adopted him as his heir, and whether the grand duke of the Duke de La Chatre, who died in 1824 without issue, really adopted him as his heir.

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